

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An auto settlement system using a locker comprising:
reader means for reading a trader identifier supplied by a trader decided beforehand by a contract concluded between a proprietary company of lockers and ~~[[a]]~~ the trader;
operation keys for inputting a recipient identifier;
a sensor for detecting whether or not there is an article in a box of said locker;
an electric lock for locking a door of said box when said sensor detects said article; and
a central control unit for storing article data including said recipient identifier, a trader's name or the like to transmit said data to ~~[[the]]~~ a control center,
wherein the trader is a person that delivers articles to a box of the locker.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An auto settlement system using a locker according to claim 1, wherein said article data thereof being input by said operation keys is priced higher than a preset amount such that each box of the locker rejects to accept said article therewithin, wherein the price of the article data is set by the trader who is the supplier of the article and the preset amount is set initially upon setting up the auto settlement system and represents an amount which is the value of the most expensive good that will be accepted by the auto settlement system.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An auto settlement system using a locker, wherein when [[said]] an article deposited in the locker is to be taken out with a purchase money thereof being unsettled, a recipient identifier decided beforehand under a contract with a proprietary company of said locker is read by reader means installed in said locker, [[or]] and a password given by said proprietary company is input with operation keys to thereby open the door of a box in said locker, and the recipient identifier [[or]] and password is stored in a central control unit of said proprietary company such that said proprietary company can pay the purchase money by the recipient identifier or password to a trader of the goods.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An auto settlement system using a locker, wherein [[the]] a payee and [[the]] a charge are read from a bar code printed on a bill from a control center which is entrusted with collecting money of, for example, public utilities charges such as telephone, city water, gas and electricity, or rents and maintenance fee from an owner of [[the]] a house, a proprietary company and a management society, by a bar code reader installed in the locker, and a recipient identifier decided beforehand by a contract with the proprietary company of the locker is read by reader means installed in said locker, or a password given by said proprietary company is input with operation keys, to thereby store said recipient identifier or password in a central control unit of said proprietary company such that said proprietary company can pay the amount of money settled by said recipient identifier or password to public utilities service companies ~~or consignors,~~ said owner of the house, said proprietary company and said management society.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An auto settlement system using a locker, wherein when a member who has made an agreement with a proprietary company accesses at least a shopping mall established by said proprietary company of the locker or a shopping mall on the Internet connected via said shopping mall, using said locker ~~or a computer or portable terminal in the member's house,~~ and purchases an article, the settlement of the purchase price of said article is performed via said proprietary company, utilizing said locker.